



MINUTES

Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Monday, August 15, 2022

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met in **Regular Session** on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 9:00 AM, in the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Texas.

Present: **C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.**, County Judge
Jack Chaney, Commissioner Precinct 1-1A
Leslie Casterline, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Pat Rousseau, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Wendy Laubach, Commissioner, Precinct 4

Absent:

I. Call to Order & Pledges

The meeting convened at 9:00 AM, followed by pledges to the American and Texas flags.

II. **The Invocation** was given by Commissioner Chaney.

III. **Roll Call** was taken. **A Quorum was declared**, and the following proceedings were had and done, to wit:

IV. **Citizens to be Heard** – There were none.

V. Presentations

1. Sherri Shouse of Simple Senior Benefits gave a presentation on Medicare Part C.

VI. Consent Agenda

2. Minutes from the August 8, 2022, Regular Meeting

3. Certificate of Completion awarded to Commissioner Leslie "Bubba" Casterline from the V.G. Young Institute of County Government for successful completion of thirteen (13) educational training hours

4. \$105 supply donation from Star Ferrel-McDonald to Aransas County Animal Control

5. \$50 memorial donation in the name of Anne R. Mourtaja to Aransas County Library

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the Consent Items; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

VII. County Reports

6. Texas Maritime Museum Report

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to approve 2nd Quarter 2022 Report for the Texas Maritime Museum; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

VIII. County Roads and Floodplain

7. Accepting County Rights-of-Way (Lara Garza Acres Subdivision)

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve accepting a portion of the private access easements in the Lara Garza Acres Subdivision, located near Whispering Woods, Lara Garza Road, and Bernardy Road, as County Rights-of-Ways to be included in the County road map as unpaved county roads; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

IX. Planning and Budget Office

8. Indigent Health Care

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to approve the proposed amount of Indigent Health Care expenditures, for Fiscal Year September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023, based on Eight Percent (8%) of the Gross Revenue Tax Levy, as calculated by the Aransas County Tax Assessor Collector on State Comptroller Form 50-252; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

9. 2022 Tax Rate and Schedule Public Hearing

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to propose the 2022 tax rate at the No New Revenue tax rate of 0.00348411 and to schedule the Public Hearing for Monday, August 22, 2022, at 8:30AM; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

Vote: Motion failed on a 2-3 vote (with Chaney, Casterline, and Mills dissenting and voicing that they were in favor of giving employees a cost of living increase).

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to propose the 2022 tax rate at 0.358411, the one cent increase; seconded by Commissioner Chaney. This motion omitted scheduling the Public Hearing so Commissioner Casterline then made an **Amended Motion** to propose the 2022 tax rate at 0.358411, the one cent increase over the No New Revenue rate, and to schedule the Public Hearing for Monday, August 22, 2022, at 8:30AM, which was seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

Vote: Motion carried on a 3-2 vote (with Rousseau and Laubach dissenting); it was so ordered.

10. Auditor's Monthly Report

Motion by Commissioner Laubach to approve the July 2022 Auditor's Monthly Report; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

11. Elected Officials' Salaries

Motion by Commissioner Casterline **to TABLE** taking action on elected officials' salaries and expenses to be included in budget; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

Vote: Motion to TABLE carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

12. NOT AN ACTION ITEM: Discuss and receive information on proposals from the public concerning any budget issues, including the possibility of changing the current allocation of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds for the year 2023

The following groups addressed the Court with HOT fund requests for 2023:

- Oysterfest – Commissioners mentioned \$8K (same as La Mardi Gras received)
- Fulton Mansion – Commissioners discussed a percentage allocation of 4% similar to the ones allocated to Texas Maritime Museum and Rockport Center for the Arts (in an average year, 4% works out to \$30K)
- Rockport Center for the Arts – if there are additional funds available they would like additional money on top of the 4% percentage allocation, they are requesting an additional \$10K (for a total of \$40K)
- RockportFulton.com – Court needs to understand if it can qualify for funds within the HOT structure guidelines

13. Employee Insurance Deductions

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve and authorize County Judge to sign the Renewal of the Adoption Agreement and Certificate of Resolution #R-20-2022 for the Section 125 Premium Only Plan, which allows an employer's insurance premium contributions for qualifying health, dental, and life insurance policies to be deducted from his or her payroll on a pre-tax basis; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

(There is a \$185/year cost to Aransas County to offer this benefit but it actually saves the County money. This year, it is anticipated that the County will end up saving \$144,759.)

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

14. Budget Line Item Transfers

Motion by Commissioner Rousseau to approve Budget Line Item Transfers (Per Auditor Jacky Cockerham, there were none.); seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

15. Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities

Motion by Commissioner Casterline to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities; seconded by Commissioner Chaney. (Auditor Cockerham mentioned only payroll and our debt service interest payments.)

Vote: Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

X. Commissioners, Elected Officials & Department Heads – No action will be taken

Commissioner Rousseau:

1. Jace Tunnel will be here in two weeks to update us on the proposed testing of the Copano Red Beds by Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve for us and the Navigation District.
2. Thank you to Sheriff Mills and the new Fire Marshal for giving out 10 citations over the last two weeks for violations of the Burn Ban.

Lori Cesar, Director of Animal Control:

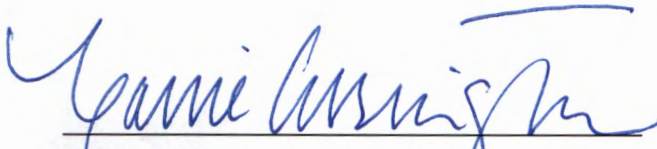
Aransas County Animal Control received an \$18,000 grant for free spay and neuter for selected residents from the Coastal Bend Community Foundation – associated with People Assisting Animals of Corpus Christi.

XI. Adjournment

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:17 AM on a motion duly made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.



C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge



Carrie Arrington, Ex-Officio Clerk
of the Commissioners Court

